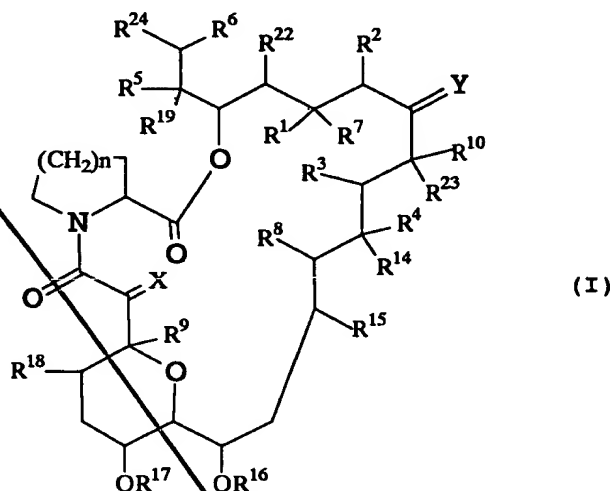


CLAIMS

1. An agent for treating a dry eye, comprising a macrolide compound as an active ingredient.

2. The agent of claim 1, wherein the macrolide compound is a tricyclo compound (I) of the following formula



wherein

adjacent pairs of R¹ and R², R³ and R⁴, and R⁵ and R⁶ each independently

a) consist of two adjacent hydrogen atoms, wherein R² is optionally alkyl, or

b) form another bond between carbon atoms binding with the members of each pair;

R⁷ is hydrogen atom, hydroxy, alkyloxy or protected hydroxy, or may form oxo with R¹;

R⁸ and R⁹ each independently show hydrogen atom or hydroxy;

R¹⁰ is hydrogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkyl substituted by one or more hydroxy, alkenyl substituted by one or more hydroxy, or alkyl substituted by oxo;

X is oxo, (hydrogen atom, hydroxy), (hydrogen atom, hydrogen atom), or a group of the formula -CH₂O-;

Y is oxo, (hydrogen atom, hydroxy), (hydrogen atom, hydrogen atom), or a group of the formula N-NR¹¹R¹² or N-OR¹³;

R¹¹ and R¹² each independently show hydrogen atom, alkyl, aryl or tosyl;

R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹, R²² and R²³ each independently show hydrogen

atom or alkyl;
R²⁴ is an optionally substituted ring which optionally contains
one or more hetero atom(s); and

n is 1 or 2,

wherein

Y, R¹⁰ and R²³ optionally form, together with the carbon atom they
bind with, a saturated or unsaturated 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic
group containing nitrogen atom, sulfur atom and/or oxygen atom,
the heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more group(s)
selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy, alkyloxy,
benzyl, a group of the formula -CH₂Se(C₆H₅), and alkyl substituted
by one or more hydroxy,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. The agent of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the macrolide compound
is FK506.

4. The agent of any of claim 1 to claim 3, which is in the form of
a preparation for local administration to the eye.

5. The agent of any of claim 1 to claim 4, which aims at improving
tear film breakup time.

6. A method for treating a dry eye, comprising administering an
effective amount of a macrolide compound to a subject in need of the
treatment of dry eye.

7. Use of a macrolide compound for the production of a pharmaceutical
composition for the treatment of dry eye.